

efforts. For eighteen years, these families have been without their children. Answers are long overdue.

TIBET

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, last year I delivered a statement for the record commemorating the 40th anniversary of the 1959 Tibetan uprising, during which His Holiness the Dalai Lama and more than 100,000 Tibetans were forced to flee their homeland as a result of brutal suppression by the Chinese government. Unfortunately, the human rights situation in Tibet has not improved, and has if anything deteriorated over the past year.

U.S. Administration officials and Congressional supporters of Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China often claim that more open trade with the West will expose ordinary Chinese to new ideas, new ideals, and a new independence from the State. This will awaken their desire for more freedom, paving the way for democracy in China. I have often voiced skepticism about these claims.

We do not have to wait for the people of Tibet to express their yearning for freedom. They have continuously struggled for their rights for over forty years, and have paid dearly for their actions. Their efforts so far have failed, not because they do not yearn to be free, but rather because their efforts are brutally suppressed and we are apparently little able to help them. Even our efforts in March to introduce at the annual meeting of the UN Commission for Human Rights a resolution condemning PRC officials' human rights practices in China and Tibet were blocked by the PRC and most of the industrialized nations.

If the Administration and Congress are serious about their efforts to promote human rights in China, surely Tibet should be the bellwether. We need to find concrete ways to demonstrate this commitment, and to encourage other countries to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL LES BROWNLEE, USA (RET.)

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today the United States Army came to the U.S. Capitol to honor one of its most distinguished retired officers.

Colonel Les Brownlee is currently serving as Staff Director of the Senate Armed Services Committee, having previously served as a staffer on the Committee and in my Senate office. He is known and respected throughout our nation's military and defense industry. This award—for his lifetime of extraordinary leadership in uniform and with the Senate—is well deserved.

I ask that the introduction by the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, General Jack Keane, and the citation be

printed in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate which Colonel Brownlee has served for sixteen years. His record of public service stands as an inspiration for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SPEECH DELIVERED BY GENERAL JACK KEANE

June 13, 2000.

Senator WARNER, Senator THURMOND, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to join us. I would also like to welcome Les' son, John, his wife, LeAnne, and their new daughter, Thompson Ann.

Distinguished guests, friends and fellow soldiers. Thank you all for being here today to help us honor a true American patriot.

Originally, Major General LeMoyne, the Commander of the Infantry Center, was going to present this award during the Infantry Conference at Fort Benning, right there in building number four in the shadow of Iron Mike—a symbol that is so familiar to infantrymen. Unfortunately, scheduling conflicts would not allow that to happen.

The citation that we will present to Les in just a few moments reads that the Order of Saint Maurice is presented for "distinguished contribution to, and loyal support of the Infantry, and demonstrating gallant devotion to the principle of selfless service."

No one fits that description better than Les Brownlee. He is a passionate advocate for soldiers who has devoted his entire life to the service of his country—both in peace and in war.

Les' career of military service is, by any measurement, an extraordinary record of courage, devotion to duty, and love of soldiering.

Les chose the Army's most demanding branch of service—the Infantry. Infantry training and infantry battle demand the very most of the human spirit—where leaders are expected to exercise personal, physical leadership with daring and courage; where soldiers must be willing to give up everything they care about in life; where God-forsaken terrain, foul, miserable weather, extreme cold and extreme heat, can be as challenging as any enemy; where raw, stark fear is personal and normal; where training can be every bit as dangerous and demanding as combat; and where death is always a silent companion.

Les Brownlee volunteered for this life—a life of hardship and challenge, but a life of service in the company of the very best men our nation has to offer.

He volunteered for special skills—airborne, Ranger—skills that required an even greater degree of personal courage and sacrifice, but skills which would enable him to become and even better infantryman.

Les is a veteran of two tours of combat in Vietnam. A decorated Hero who has twice been awarded the Silver Star—our Nation's third highest award for valor. He also has three Bronze Star Medals, and the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in combat.

Leading soldiers in combat is the most challenging and demanding assignment an officer will ever face . . . it tests the character of a commander . . . it forces him to bare his soul and face his own human frailties like no other experience.

Les Brownlee faced that test, twice in Vietnam, and it has shaped the character of his service ever since. It is where he learned about the bonds that form between soldiers and between soldiers and their leaders; it is where he learned that service to others is more important than service to self.

He is a paratrooper who understands all types of infantry.

He served as a platoon leader in the 101st Airborne Division, a Company Commander in the 173 Airborne Brigade, and he commanded a mechanized Battalion in the 3rd Infantry Division in Germany.

Despite his distinguished combat record, the thing that his friends who served with him will tell you that he is most proud is that, in January of 1965, he was named the distinguished honor graduate of his Ranger class. This prestigious honor is determined by peer and instructor evaluations and is awarded to the soldier who exhibits extraordinary leadership abilities.

Incidentally he was also graduated an Honor Graduate of his Officer Advanced Course and the Command and General Staff College.

Throughout his distinguished Army Career, and certainly in his capacity on the Armed Services Committee, Les has kept the welfare of the common soldier close to his heart.

NECESSARILY ABSENT

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, last week I was necessarily absent from the Senate to attend my daughter's graduation from college. As a result, I missed two votes Thursday and one Friday morning as I was returning to Washington.

For the record, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to table the Daschle amendment related to a Patients' Bills of Rights. I would have voted nay on the point of order raised with respect to the McCain amendment related to the so-called Section 527 loophole in our campaign finance laws. I would have voted aye on the Grassley amendment related to accounting practices at the Department of Defense. My vote would not have changed the outcome on any of these votes.

Also for the record, I am extraordinarily proud of my daughter, Jessamyn, who graduated magna cum laude with highest honors from Harvard University last Thursday, June 8.

WARTIME VIOLATION OF ITALIAN-AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about a little known, but very dark chapter in American history. While many are familiar with the deplorable treatment of Japanese-Americans and others of Japanese ancestry living in the United States during World War II, there is far less discussion and understanding of what Italian-Americans were forced to endure during that period.

Italian-Americans refer to what happened at this time as "Una Storia Segreta," or "A Secret Story." Beginning before the war and until after Italy's surrender in 1943, Italian-Americans and those of Italian decent living in the United States were made suspects simply because of their country

of origin. Like Japanese-Americans, they were subjected to all manner of civil rights violations including curfews, warrantless searches, summary arrests, exclusions, relocations and even internment.

The United States must accept responsibility for its grievous treatment of Italian-Americans during World War II. To this end, Senator TORRICELLI has introduced S. 1009, the Wartime Violation of Italian-American Civil Liberties Act, a bill to require the Justice Department to make a full accounting of the injustices suffered by Italian-Americans during World War II. After the Justice Department completes its report, the President would formally acknowledge these injustices.

I am pleased to cosponsor this overdue legislation. Although it may be painful to revisit and admit to the mistakes made during this time, I hope my colleagues would agree that it is the necessary and right thing to do.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, June 12, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,648,173,825,800.99 (Five trillion, six hundred forty-eight billion, one hundred seventy-three million, eight hundred twenty-five thousand, eight hundred dollars and ninety-nine cents).

Five years ago, June 12, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,901,416,000,000 (Four trillion, nine hundred one billion, four hundred sixteen million).

Ten years ago, June 12, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,120,196,000,000 (Three trillion, one hundred twenty billion, one hundred ninety-six million).

Fifteen years ago, June 12, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,766,703,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred sixty-six billion, seven hundred three million).

Twenty-five years ago, June 12, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$527,785,000,000 (Five hundred twenty-seven billion, seven hundred eighty-five million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,120,388,825,800.99 (Five trillion, one hundred twenty billion, three hundred eighty-eight million, eight hundred twenty-five thousand, eight hundred dollars and ninety-nine cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

VIRGINIA TECH'S CLASS OF 2000

• Mr. WARNER. Last month, I had the privilege of addressing the graduating class at Virginia Tech University. During the commencement ceremony, three Virginia Tech students, Class President Lauren Esleeck, Graduate Student Representative Timothy Wayne Mays, and Class Treasurer Rush K. Middleton, addressed the graduating

class and those in attendance. The speeches given by these three students were so eloquent and so inspiring, that I felt it was important to share them with my colleagues in the United States Senate and with the people of the United States.

To date, I have been able to obtain copies of Ms. Esleeck's speech and Mr. Middleton's speech. It is my pleasure to ask that these speeches be inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The speeches follow:

SPEECH OF RUSH K. MIDDLETON, CLASS
TREASURER

Only July 4th, 1939, Lou Gehrig, recently diagnosed with a terminal illness that would cripple and kill him in the prime of his life, stood before 60,000 adoring fans at Yankee Stadium and proclaimed, "I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

How could a man who was so surely facing death profess that he was more blessed than those who sat around him and viewed their own deaths as nothing more than a distant shadow. The answer is quite simple: Lou Gehrig did not measure his fortune by the number of home runs he hit, the number of games he played, or the sum of money he earned. Instead, confronting his own mortality, he calculated the worth of his life by the people that surrounded him. For, unlike the countless tangible rewards and honors that were bestowed upon him, the friendships and relationships he established would not perish with his physical passing.

How does the Class of 2000 want to measure its worth? Do we wish to be defined by the jobs that we accept, the salaries we earn, or the number of promotions we receive? Or would we rather be characterized by the unbreakable bonds that we established with the people around us? I would challenge our Class to pursue the latter. My challenge is this: That we should leave this amazing institution with high expectations of what we will accomplish in our years as alumni. That we remain true to VPI's motto of *Ut Prosim*, "That I may serve," honorably serving our community, our family, our church, and our alma mater. Let us remember that we have but one chance on earth to dedicate ourselves to the task of helping our fellow man. If we give of ourselves, we give the most appreciated gift, and the one gift which no sum of money can possibly buy.

As we pen these final lines in the collegiate chapters of our lives, surrounded by family, friends, faculty, and peers, let us remember that we should strive to define ourselves by these relationships, and not by those material items that will surely fade into our past. If we can accomplish this goal, we can say with confidence, just as Lou Gehrig did, that we are luckiest people on the face of the earth. God bless each one of you, and God bless Virginia Tech. Thank You.

SPEECH OF LAUREN ESLEECK, CLASS
PRESIDENT

Today, we are here in celebration of a truly significant occasion and may I begin by saying, "Congratulations".

The Class of 2000 Motto is "With Honor there is Power, with Character there is Strength." Recently our Class bestowed a gift to Virginia Tech which certainly reflects this theme. The Class of 2000 has chosen to present the university with a new mace, symbolizing the power and strength Virginia Tech has achieved through both her honor and character. During the Founder's Day

celebration the Class of 2000 presented Dr. Charles Steger with the new mace immediately following his installation as President of Virginia Tech. Our university's mace has long been a symbol of our tradition of excellence and our Class is fortunate to have contributed a gift to Virginia Tech which will ensure this tradition continues. The new mace, created by Steve Bickley, is resting here on stage. It is a gold-plated contemporary design bearing 3 different seals of the university:

The official university seal affixed to Hokiestone;

The centennial seal from 1972; and

The earliest seal of the university—dating back to 1872.

It also includes 8 spires representing each of the pylons.

Thank you the Class of 2000 for such a tremendous gift.

During this time of excitement and celebration, I have 2 wishes for the Class of 2000. I hope that:

1. We view our Class motto not as a statement, but as a goal;
2. That we be humble.

Again, the Class of 2000 Motto is, "With Honor there is Power, with Character there is Strength."

I encourage you to view our motto not as a statement, but as a goal because I hope that we strive to achieve personal strength and power by developing both our character and honor.

Character. Please allow me to borrow some thoughts on the importance of character from General Charles Krulak of the U.S. Marine Corp. Character is the moral courage that is within each of us. Everyday we have to make decisions. It is through this decision making process that we show those around us the quality of our character. The majority of decisions we make are "no brainers." Deciding whether to eat at West End Market or Owens is not going to test your character. . . . judgment maybe, but not character. The true test of character comes when the stakes are high, when the chips are down, when your gut starts to turn, when you know the decision you are about to make may not be popular, but it is to be made. That's when your true character is exposed.

Success in life has always demanded a depth of character. Those who can reach deep within themselves and draw upon an inner strength, fortified by strong values, always carry the day against those of lesser character.

Honor. Honor is captured by two essential ingredients—honesty and integrity. I hope that we may each find the courage to be not only true to others, but also true to ourselves—a far more difficult challenge. Such uninhibited self-evaluation will provide endless opportunities for personal growth and development.

Perhaps the most important determinant of integrity is work ethic. Hard work and determination have earned us the degrees we celebrate today. A wise man once said, "It is amazing how many people who work very hard are damn lucky." While hard work may often go unrecognized, it will undoubtedly further one's integrity. Both integrity and honesty are essential to achieving honor. Likewise, both honor and character are essential to achieving power and strength.

My second and final wish is that we may each be humble.

Two of the simplest words in the English language are too often forgotten. Thank you. At a time when it is also appropriate to offer thanks. None of us have walked this journey